

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 5, 7-9, 11, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the international patent document to Wherle in view of the German patent document to Oberle.

Claim 6 is rejected over the above discussed references and further in view of the U.S. patent application publication to Oshima.

Claim 8 is rejected over the above mentioned references, and further in view of the U.S. patent application publication to Hamamura.

Claim 9 is rejected over these references and further in view of the patent to Montagu.

Claim 12 is rejected over the above mentioned references in view of the U.S. patent to Huynh.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over these references in view of the U.S. patent application publication to Suzuki.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims for formal reasons, claims 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 17 have been amended in formal aspects, to remove indefinite expressions, and claims 19-25 have been added to define the features which were removed from the above listed claims.

Applicants also added claim 26, an additional independent claim. The support for this claim can be found in the second paragraph on page 2 of the specification.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating into it the features of claim 4.

The Examiner rejected the claims as being obvious over the combination of the Wehrle and Oberle references. The Wehrle reference discloses an arrangement for an annular magnet to a rotor shaft. In the arrangement disclosed in the Wehrle reference the annular magnet has a structured outer surface which is pressed by a separate securing element 4 against a surface of the commutator 9. This arrangement has the disadvantage that it is very difficult to be manufactured, because the material of the annular

magnet 2 has to be machined to provide the structured outer surface. This reference discloses the securing element 4 which is fixed on a shaft and presses the annular magnet with a spring 7 axially against a clamping face of the commutator. In contrast, the Oberle reference discloses a retaining element 23 which has a structured surface that engages form-lockingly in a corresponding form lock of another component 20, for example a commutator, a laminea pack, or a bearing. The retaining element 23, for example is fixed against rotation with a pressure fit on the rotor shaft 3, so that there is no spring element which generates a pressing force between a clamping surface and an abutment face of the annular magnet.

It is believed to be clear that the new features of the present invention as defined in amended claim 1 are not disclosed in the references taken singly.

If a person skilled in the art analyzed the Wehrle and Oberle references, he would obtain a magnet with a structured surface, which both is held by a securing element which is fixedly mounted on the rotor shaft, that is pressed with spring tongs 7 against the annular magnet. On the other hand, a further retaining element 23, which is also mounted on the rotor shaft by means of a pressure fit, presses with a structured axial surface against the first securing element. Such a solution however does not make any sense, since it will not

result in a reliable axial bearing with an axial play compensation. A person skilled in the art who combined the references for some reasons would not have any hint or suggestion to arrive at the applicant's invention in which the retaining element 4 is formed so that it has a spring element which presses the clamping face 22 of the retaining element against the contact face of the annular magnet. Such an arrangement makes sense only when the clamping face 22 has a "knurling extending in a radial direction", whose pressing against the contact face of the soft annular magnet has a combination of form-lock and force-lock.

In contrast, in the Wehrle and Oberle references only a "macroscopic" form-lock is provided, which is not suitable for a cooperation of the clamping face 22 with a contact face of a permanent magnet.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, claim 1, the broadest claim on file, should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 1, they share its presumably allowable features and therefore it is respectfully submitted that they should be allowed as well.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 1, they share its allowable features, and they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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